

Serial No.: 09/779,315
Attorney Docket No.: 9L01.1-110
PATENT

REMARKS

The Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action mailed October 7, 2004, Paper No. 7. The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-18 in this application. By the present Response and Amendment, the Applicants have cancelled Claim 16 and amended Claim 17. Thus, Claims 1-15 and 17-18 remain pending in this application. The Applicants have not introduced any new matter.

The Examiner has allowed Claims 1-15, has rejected Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shiragaki (US 5,457,556), and has objected to Claims 17 and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of Claims 1-15 and 17-18.

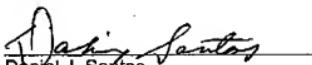
Applicants traverse the rejection of Claim 16, but nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claim 16 and have amended Claim 17 to include all the limitations of base Claim 16 as well as to correct a minor typographical error (changing the phrase "a input side" to "an input side"). Accordingly, all grounds of rejection are obviated, and all claims that remain pending are believed to be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


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